



Harrisburg Patriot-News (2-3) Source for Dimock's emergency water disputes Cabot arsenic claim
Shawn Garvin, William Early, Daniel Ryan, Jennie Saxe, Ron Borsellino, Kathy Hodgkiss, Dennis Carney, Gerald Heston, Michael Kulik, Joan Schafer, Terri-A White, David Roy Seneca to: Sternberg, Cecil Rodrigues, Heather Gray, Humane Zia, KarenD Johnson, capacasa.jon, 02/03/2012 07:43 AM
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Source for Dimock's emergency water disputes Cabot arsenic claim

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pn By **DONALD GILLILAND, The Patriot-News**

P Photo/Jacqueline LarmaProtesters stand in front of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia before an appearance by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson Friday Jan. 13, 2012. Residents of the small northeastern Pennsylvania town of Dimock, at the center of the political fight over natural gas drilling, joined environmental activists from elsewhere to rally Friday outside a conference on urban environmental issues.

Another party has entered the **protracted squabble** over the Environmental Protection Agency’s decision to do its own tests of water in Dimock, **allegedly fouled by Cabot Oil & Gas** drilling in the Marcellus Shale.

Pennsylvania American Water has countered Cabot’s **recent claim** that arsenic readings came from the Pennsylvania American public water supply in Montrose rather than the **water in Dimock**.

“We test for arsenic in all of our water systems,” said Susan Turcmanovich, spokeswoman for Pennsylvania American Water.

“We have had no detection of arsenic in any of our tests” since at least 2006, she said.

And Turcmanovich clarified: “no detection means zero.”

“Any detection at all would be listed on our water quality report, and anything above 10ug/L would require public notification,” she said.

Turcmanovich supplied several years of reports to verify her claim.

The EPA recently issued a letter in response to Cabot, but it did not address the specific claim that some of the samples it relied on for its decision did not come from Dimock.

Cabot spokesman George Stark said the information the company has on the tests — which were apparently done by Dimock residents — indicates “that the water they tested was not from their well — it was from the water that was provided to them. The reading was what it was.”

Turcmanovich, who has been attempting to correct stories in several newspapers around the state that reported on Cabot’s criticism of the EPA, said Thursday, “We did learn that the sample Cabot is referring to was taken from a water buffalo providing potable water to one of the residences in Dimock.”

She said, “That water was taken by a private contractor from a service in our system, transported to the residence, and then placed in the water buffalo. We are likewise reaching out to Cabot with numerous questions regarding the sampling, lab testing, and the contractor hauling the water.”

Stark said, “This is what is really frustrating when you use one data point to create a conclusion. We’re trying to show it’s an error because it doesn’t even come from their ground water.”

Pennsylvania regulators held Cabot responsible for methane migrating into the water supply, but said no chemical from drilling had contaminated the water. A subsequent independent study by researchers at Duke University confirmed that finding. Some resident in Dimock, however, believe otherwise and have been petitioning the EPA to intervene.

The EPA recently announced **it would do its own testing**, and said it would supply emergency water to four homes where tests raised concerns. The water being supplied to those residents come from the Pennsylvania American Water system in Montrose.

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